

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05 H-02 INR-10
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TO SECSTATE WASHDC 7233
INFO AMEMBASSY LONDON
USIA WASHDC

UNCLAS SECTION 01 OF 02 BONN 05871

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STATE FOR EUR/CE:WOESSNER; LONDON FOR DEPUTY SECRETARY

E.O. 11652:N/A

SUBJECT: GERMAN PRESS COVERAGE OF DEPUTY SECRETARY
CHRISTOPHER'S VISIT TO THE FRG

1. THE FOLLOWING ITEMS RELATED TO THE CHRISTOPHER
VISIT TO THE FRG APPEARED IN TODAY'S GERMAN PRESS:

2. BONNER RUNDSCHAU, PRO-CDU (LEAD STORY): IN THE
FOREGROUND OF DEPUTY SECRETARY CHRISTOPHER'S DIS-
CUSSIONS IN BONN HAS BEEN THE AMERICAN NUCLEAR NON-
PROLIFERATION ACT RATHER THAN THE NEUTRON WEAPON.
RIGID APPLICATION OF THAT ACT COULD CAUSE GREATEST
DIFFICULTIES FOR THE GERMAN ECONOMY AND FOR GERMAN
NUCLEAR EXPORTS. SINCE BONN CONSIDERS ITSELF IN-
SUFFICIENTLY INFORMED OF THAT ACT, GENSCHER IS SAID
TO HAVE ASKED CHRISTOPHER FOR EXPLANATION OF DETAILS.
TODAY, CHRISTOPHER IS EXPECTED TO SEE SCHMIDT IN
HAMBURG TO DISCUSS PROBLEMS CONCERNING INTRODUCTION
OF THE NEUTRON WEAPON.

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3. GENERAL-ANZEIGER, INDEPENDENT (FRONT-PAGE REPORT
FROM BONN): THE POLITICAL PROCESS OF PRODUCING AND
INTRODUCING NEUTRON WEAPONS IS TO BE WRAPPED UP IN A
"PACKAGE" PROVIDING FOR THE FOLLOWING FIVE STEPS:
(1) THE U.S. DECIDES TO PRODUCE THE NEUTRON WEAPON.
(2) THE WESTERN ALLIANCE IS INFORMED AND TAKES NOTE

OF THE U.S. DECISION. (3) PRODUCTION STARTS.
(4) THE NEUTRON WEAPON IS BEING INTRODUCED AS
AN OBJECT OF BARTER IN EAST-WEST DISARMAMENT
NEGOTIATIONS. (5) IF THESE NEGOTIATIONS FAIL BECAUSE
OF REFUSAL BY THE EAST TO MAKE CORRESPONDING CONCESSIONS
THE WESTERN ALLIANCE WILL DECIDE TO STATION NEUTRON
WEAPONS IN EUROPE.
THESE FIVE STEPS WILL BE CLOSELY LINKED. THE U.S.
WANTS TO ELIMINATE ANY DOUBT THAT NATO'S TAKING NOTE OF
THE U.S. DECISION TO PRODUCE NEUTRON WEAPONS WOULD
LEAD TO STATIONING THEM IN EUROPE IF DISARMAMENT
NEGOTIATIONS ON THIS POINT FAILED. IT IS ASSUMED THAT
FAR-REACHING AGREEMENT WAS ACHIEVED BETWEEN GENSCHER
AND CHRISTOPHER ON THESE POINTS. THE ATMOSPHERE
DURING THEIR DISCUSSIONS WAS SAID TO HAVE BEEN "VERY
FRIENDLY AND CORDIAL."

4. DIE WELT, RIGHT-CENTER (BY BERNT CONRAD, BONN):
CHRISTOPHER'S "BLITZ VISIT" OBVIOUSLY HAS TO BE SEEN
IN LIGHT OF EFFORTS BY BOTH SIDES TO IMPROVE
WASHINGTON-BONN RELATIONS. CHANCELLOR SCHMIDT HAD
GIVEN THE SIGNAL FOR SUCH EFFORTS BY STATING IN
HAMBURG ON MARCH 3 THAT GERMAN-AMERICAN CONSENSUS
CANNOT BE SHAKEN. SIMILAR STATEMENTS WERE MADE MOST
RECENTLY BY SECRETARY VANCE. HOWEVER, SUCH STATEMENTS
CANNOT ELIMINATE EXISTING DIFFERENCES, FOR INSTANCE,
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ON INTRODUCING THE NEUTRON WEAPON. PRESIDENT CARTER
IS SAID TO HAVE POSTPONED HIS DECISION ON PRODUCING
NEUTRON WEAPONS BECAUSE OF CONCERN LEST HE BE THE
ONLY ONE EXPOSED TO ANTICIPATED SOVIET PROPAGANDA
ATTACKS ON THE NEUTRON WEAPON DURING THE UN DISARMAMENT
DEBATE IN MAY.

5. FRANKFURTER ALLGEMEINE, INDEPENDENT (BY ROBERT
HELD): "ALTHOUGH PRESIDENT CARTER'S VISIT TO BRAZIL
AND DEPUTY SECRETARY CHRISTOPHER'S VISIT TO BONN ARE
OF DIFFERENT RANK, THEY HAVE, IN PART, SIMILAR
OBJECTIVES. WHILE WASHINGTON WANTS TO KNOW MORE ABOUT
OUR POSITION ON THE NEUTRON WEAPON, BONN WANTS TO KNOW
MORE ABOUT THE AMERICAN NUCLEAR NONPROLIFERATION ACT
AND ITS REPERCUSSIONS FOR THE GERMAN-BRAZILIAN NUCLEAR
AGREEMENT...

"THE BONN GOVERNMENT IS CONCERNED THAT IT MAY BE FORCED
TO REVISE AN AGREEMENT WITH ANOTHER COUNTRY EVEN
THOUGH THE U.S. HAD APPROVED OF IT EARLIER, AND THAT
THE FRG MIGHT THUS BE DEPRIVED OF SOME OF ITS
SOVEREIGNTY, THEREBY LOSING FACE IN THE REST OF THE

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WORLD. THE BONN GOVERNMENT NEEDS EXPLANATORY COMMENT ON CARTER'S STATEMENTS IN BRASILIA AGAINST PLUTONIUM REPROCESSING. ALTHOUGH THE AMERICANS HAVE REVISED THEIR POLICY OF TURNING AWAY FROM BRAZIL, AND ALTHOUGH CARTER HAS USED WELL-CONCEIVED LANGUAGE IN EXPRESSING WASHINGTON'S RESPECT FOR BRAZIL, HE HAS NOT REFRAINED FROM VETOING (SIC) THE GERMAN-BRAZILIAN NUCLEAR AGREEMENT. THE QUESTION IS WHETHER SOME OF THE AMERICAN DEMANDS ARE ACCEPTABLE, WHETHER CONTROL PROPOSALS TO PROMOTE THE CAUSE OF NUCLEAR NONPROLIFERATION CAN BE IMPLEMENTED WITHOUT HURTING LATIN AMERICAN FEELINGS..."

6. SUEDEDEUTSCHE ZEITUNG (INDEP.): "...THE NEUTRON WEAPON IS NOT THE ONLY DELICATE SUBJECT OF DEPUTY SECRETARY CHRISTOPHER'S DISCUSSIONS IN BONN. THERE IS A DANGER OF CLASH BETWEEN WASHINGTON AND BONN OVER THE AMERICAN NUCLEAR NONPROLIFERATION ACT... SCHMIDT IS TRYING TO SWALLOW HIS MISGIVINGS AND TO AVOID PUBLIC DISPUTE. CARTER NO DOUBT IS AT THE LONGER ARM OF THE LEVER. SCHMIDT WANTS TO PROBE POSSIBILITIES OF COMPROMISE THAT WOULD MEET AMERICAN SECURITY REQUIRE-

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MENTS WITHOUT MAKING EUROPE TOTALLY DEPENDENT ON THE U.S. ... SCHMIDT HAS TRIED TO MEET CARTER HALFWAY BY PLEDGING THAT BONN WOULD NOT CONCLUDE FURTHER NUCLEAR DEALS OF THE GERMAN-BRAZILIAN TYPE. HOWEVER, HE INSISTS THAT THE GERMAN-BRAZILIAN AGREEMENT BE ADHERED TO AND THAT THE U.S. REFRAIN FROM ESTABLISHING FACTS THAT WOULD PREJUDICE THE OUTCOME OF THE INTERNATIONAL NUCLEAR FUEL CYCLE EVALUATION CONFERENCE."

7. DIE WELT, RIGHT-CENTER (BY RUEDIGER MONIAC):

"... THE CHANCELLOR AND HIS FOREIGN MINISTER HAD HOPED MODERNIZATION OF AMERICAN TACTICAL NUCLEAR WEAPONS IN EUROPE BY MEANS OF INTRODUCING THE NEUTRON WEAPON COULD BE ACCOMPLISHED SILENTLY WITHIN THE NATO FRAMEWORK AND PERHAPS EVEN BE COMBINED WITH AN ATTRACTIVE DISARMAMENT OFFER TO THE USSR. HOWEVER, PRESIDENT CARTER REFUSES TO GO IT ALONE IN SHOULDERING THE PSYCHOLOGICAL-POLITICAL BURDEN OF DECIDING TO PRODUCE NEUTRON WEAPONS AND IN THEREBY EXPOSING HIMSELF TO PROPAGANDA ATTACKS BY THE THIRD WORLD AND BY THE SOVIETS AND THEIR CLIENTS DURING THE COMING UN DISARMAMENT DEBATE ..."

8. BONNER RUNDSCHAU (PRO-CDU): "... REGARDLESS OF WHAT IDEAS WASHINGTON MAY HAVE, IT IS QUITE CERTAIN THAT DEPUTY SECRETARY CHRISTOPHER WILL NOT OBTAIN FROM BONN A STATEMENT TO THE EFFECT THAT THE GERMANS ARE IN FAVOR OF PRODUCING NEUTRON WEAPONS AS SOON AS POSSIBLE AND OF STATIONING THEM IN THE FRG ... CHRISTOPHER'S VISIT WILL SHOW THAT PROBLEMS CONCERNING THE NEUTRON WEAPON DO NOT CHIEFLY REFLECT TENSION BETWEEN THE U.S. AND ITS EUROPEAN NATO PARTNERS BUT THAT THE NEUTRON WEAPON IS CHIEFLY A PROBLEM OF U.S.-
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SOVIET TENSION ... THE NEUTRON BOMB WILL CONTINUE TO BE A SUBJECT OF DISCUSSION FOR A LONG TIME TO COME, BUT IT MUST NOT DIVIDE THE WESTERN WORLD."

9. RHEINISCHE POST (PRO-CDU): "... THE U.S. DOES NOT NEED NEUTRON WEAPONS FOR DEFENDING THE AMERICAN CONTINENT. NEUTRON WEAPONS ARE NEEDED BY THE EUROPEAN ALLIES FOR EFFECTIVE FORWARD DEFENSE IN THE FRG. THEREFORE, THE EUROPEAN NATO ALLIES ARE CALLED UPON TO COME OUT WITH A CLEAR 'YES' OR 'NO' TO THESE WEAPONS. THE DECISION ON THIS MATTER WILL AFFECT THE VERY BASIS OF SECURING THE PEACE AND OF DEFENDING EUROPE. IT MAY HAVE GRAVE CONSEQUENCES, BUT A DECISION MUST BE TAKEN.

CARTER IS NOT READY NOR IS THERE ANY REASON FOR THE
AMERICANS TO ACT FOR THE EUROPEAN NATO PARTNERS IN
TAKING THAT DECISION... "
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